

DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
April 21, 2005

~~SECRET~~ ~~NOFORN~~

RECEIVED  
WHCA

1970 JAN 14 21 22Z

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET NOFORN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/~~  
BACKGROUND USE ONLY CITE TDCS DB-315/00173-70 (ADVANCE)  
COUNTRY: NIGERIA/GABON/IVORY COAST/ FRANCE  
DOI: 13 JANUARY 1970  
SUBJECT: 1. WHEREABOUTS OF BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL  
ODUMEGWO OJUKWO  
2. THE EARLY RESPONSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO  
TO THE FALL OF BIAFRA

ACQ:  
SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

1. BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL ODUMEGWO  
O J U K W U HAS BEEN STAYING IN A PRIVATE VILLA IN  
LIBREVILLE SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM BIAFRA.  
[REDACTED] TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OJUKWU  
SAID THAT HE WAS DEPARTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES  
OF HIS GENERAL STAFF AND TO SPARE HIS PEOPLE FROM  
EXTERMINATION. CHRISTOPHER O N Y E K W E L U, BIAFRAN  
FINANCE MAN IN EUROPE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW OF OJUKWU, WAS GIVEN  
A ROUND-TRIP TICKET TO LIBREVILLE ON 13 JANUARY BY THE FRENCH  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS IN  
PARIS AND WILL JOIN OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE ON 14 JANUARY.  
C.C. M O J E K U U, BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON, HAS  
ALSO DEPARTED BY AIR FOR LIBREVILLE. FRENCH SECRETARY  
GENERAL FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS JACQUES F O C C A R T  
HAS LEFT YAOUNDE WHERE HE WAS ATTENDING CAMEROON'S  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO MEET WITH  
OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE. BIAFRAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
M E A N E F O HAS REMAINED IN BIAFRA.

2. ON THE EVENING OF 13 JANUARY 1970 FOCCART'S DEPUTY  
JEAN MAURICHEAU - BEAUPRE WENT TO SEE FRENCH  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MICHEL DEBURE. DEBURE  
AND MAURICHEAU-BEAUPRE DECIDED TO HAVE THE STOCK OF  
FRENCH-SUPPLIED ARMS REMOVED [REDACTED] AND DIVIDED  
BETWEEN THE FRENCH BASES AT DOUALA AND ABIDJAN. MAURICHEAU-  
BEAUPRE SAID THAT FRANCE HAD SENT \$30,000,000 IN MATERIAL TO  
BIAFRA, LENT IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUËT-  
BOIGNY \$8,000,000 FOR BIAFRAN OPERATIONS, AND FACES  
A DEBT OF CIRCA \$400,000 FOR [REDACTED] SERVICES.

3. THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO PLANS  
FOR FRENCH SUPPORT TO BIAFRAN GUERRILLA RESISTANCE. THE  
RATIONALE FOR THIS POSITION AS EXPRESSED BY MAURICHEAU-BEAUPRE  
TO INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITH EXECUTING BIAFRAN OPERATIONS  
WAS AS FOLLOWS: "FRANCE SUPPORTED BIAFRA BECAUSE OF THE OIL  
AND ERAP, BUT NOT THE IBO REVOLUTION. THE SUPPORT WAS  
ACTUALLY GIVEN TO A HANDFUL OF BIAFRAN BOURGEOISE IN RETURN  
FOR THE OIL. THERE IS NO POPULAR SUPPORT IN BIAFRA FOR A  
GUERRILLA WAR NOW. THE REAL IBO MENTALITY IS MUCH FARTHER TO  
THE LEFT THAN THAT OF OJUKWU AND EVEN IF WE HAD WON, THERE  
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING HIM IN POWER IN THE  
FACE OF LEFTIST INFILTRATION."

4. FIELD DISSEN: NONE. [REDACTED]

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~~SECRET~~  
~~GROUP 1~~